

Message Text

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FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT OF PRETORIA 4760 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO
CAPE TOWN JOHANNESBURG AUG 16.

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 4760

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOCI, SHUM, SF

SUBJECT: REPORTS OF GOVERNMENT MOVES AGAINST CROSSROADS

1. THIS WEEK THERE HAVE BEEN VARIOUS REPORTS THAT THE
GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO MOVE SOON AGAINST THE CROSSROADS
SQUATTER CAMP OUTSIDE OF CAPE TOWN. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR
GRANDE YESTERDAY AUGUST 15 PASSED ME A MESSAGE FROM "PEOPLE
CONCERNED WITH HELPING THE RESIDENTS OF CROSSROADS CAMP".

2. ACCORDING TO THE MESSAGE, SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE BEGAN
RAIDS YESTERDAY MORNING, AUGUST 15, ON SOME FAMILIES IN CROSS-
ROADS. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE BULLDOZING WILL BEGIN ON
MONDAY, AUGUST 21 CONTRARY TO MINISTER OF COMMUNITY
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DEVELOPMENT MARAIS STEYN'S STATEMENTS SOME TIME AGO THAT NO
DEMOLITIONS WOULD OCCUR BEFORE THE END OF WINTER. THE MESSAGE
SPECULATES THAT THE GOVERNMENT DECISION WAS TAKEN BECAUSE IT
BELIEVED THE PUBLICITY WOULD BE LESS NOW THAN AFTER
ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ON BEHALF OF CROSSROADS MOUNT AN
EFFECTIVE CAMPAIGN. THE MESSAGE ASKS WHETHER THE CANADIAN
AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS/AMBASSADORS MIGHT MAKE STATEMENTS

ON BEHALF OF THE CROSSROADS INHABITANTS.

3. COMMENT: IN MY SPEECH IN JOHANNESBURG ON AUGUST 8,
TEXT OF WHICH WAS PROVIDED TO DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, I
REFERRED TO THE PLIGHT OF THE CROSSROADS CAMP RESIDENTS AS ONE
OF THOSE ISSUES WHICH IS BOUND TO GENERATE CRITICISM. I THEREFORE
SEE LITTLE PURPOSE IN RAISING MATTER FURTHER AT THIS END, BUT
BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE USEFUL, IF PRESS STORIES APPEAR IN THE
UNITED STATES ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EARLY GOVERNMENT
MOVE AGAINST CROSSROADS, TO FOLLOW UP WITH USG EXPRESSIONS OF
CONCERN. WE ASSUME AMERICAN JOURNALISTS IN JOHANNESBURG WILL
BECOME AWARE OF THE REPORTS OF AN EARLY GOVERNMENT MOVE AGAINST
CROSSROADS AND WILL BE FILING STORIES ON THE SUBJECT.
EDMONDSON

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Message Attributes

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